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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR: Daniel C. Edelstein, et al. ) EXAMINER: Michael Aboagye  
SERIAL NO.: 10/702,416 ) ART UNIT: 1725  
FILING DATE: November 6, 2003 ) DATE: January 12, 2006  
FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR LOW PRESSURE WIREBOND

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

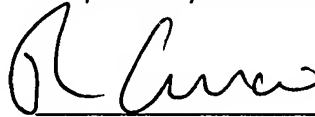
Responsive to the Office Action mailed January 3, 2006, and the restriction requirement made therein, applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-5, drawn to an apparatus having a metallic interconnect and an alloy material that includes a composition of a metallic wire material and an alloying metal, for continued examination herein.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 U.S.C. § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and distinct" (emphasis added). A search of the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-5, would necessarily require a search of the subject matter of Group II, claims 16-15, drawn to an apparatus with a metallic barrier cap over a metallic interconnect with a diffusion barrier, and Group III, claims 16-20, drawn to substrate layers having a metallic wire with a coating and a

metallic interconnect with plural diffusion barriers. Thus the apparatus delineated in Group II and Group III are not directed to an independent and distinct matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of the subject matter of Group I will necessarily cover a search of the subject matter of Group II and Group III.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Name: Marian R. Capelli Date: January 12, 2006 Signature: Marian R. Capelli

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